

lang="en">

# Hone no Aru Yatsu - WN Chapter 01-15

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# Chapter 1

Lying on my back, I open my eyes and look at the moon.  
A perfectly round moon-sama.  
The slightly cold, blue light feels somewhat nice.  
I hear a faint beast's howl in the distance.  
How beautiful.  
It has been a long time since I moon gazed like this.  
However, after gazing in wonder for several minutes, the perfectly round moon starts looking like someone's eye, making me lose composure.  
The feeling of being watched.  
Unpleasant. Un, somewhat unpleasant.  
I avert my eyes from the moon and slowly stand up.

Hyu~

The wind brushes my body after I stand up. No, rather, it feels like it passes through me.  
A mysteriously lonely feeling.  
I take a deep breath (I couldn't do it for some reason) and look around slowly.  
There are extremely magnificent ruins.  
The stone and wood used as a material for buildings are scattered on the ground, unmistakable rubble mountain.  
It's all over the place.  
It was originally most likely a small town.  
Traces of stone buildings are here and there, but now even walls, much less the roofs remain.  
Ventilation should be good.  
The debris can be seen stained under the moonlight. It's burned and carbonized.  
Broken chair legs. Rusty overturned pans. Rag clothes caught on the barely standing wooden pillar.  
Was this town involved in a war?  
It perhaps burned then.  
This land has experienced a great history.

I calmly analyze the surroundings, but the essence of the problem wasn't there.  
What is it that I must think about the most?  
That is「Why am I in such place?」in the first place.  
I mean.

What is the「purpose」of「me」being here?  
If I didn't have a purpose, why would I be sleeping in such ruins?

Well, anyway. I have to remember.

「Why am I in such place?」

If I can figure out the answer to this question, I will automatically understand my「purpose」.

It may not be necessarily「I」<sup>1</sup> either.

Ah, wait a second. Sorry, that was a lie.

In the first place, I don't understand a thing about「me」.

No, I also don't understand such philosophical question.

「just」noticed that I don't know anything about myself at all.

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Really.

I don't know a single thing about myself.

How old am I?

How tall am I?

What is my favorite food?

Do I have a lover?

Ah, I don't even know if I'm a man or a woman!

I should be able to confirm it myself!

I..... I reach my hand near my abdomen.

Un.....

Un.....

Un, it's not there!

I'm a woman!

Then, using「Boku」would be weird. Should I use「Watashi」or「Uchi」or perhaps「Watakushi」instead?

Eh, but wait.

The feeling is a little strange.  
A hard touch is transmitted to my fingers since a little while ago.  
Such hard feeling is similar to the one when you touch a plank.  
Something is weird.  
Because it's dark I have to confirm by touch.  
I look down on my body lower body, relying on the brightness of the moonlight.  
But, instead of my lower part of the body, I see bone? like thing.  
Pelvis?  
Bones of a person who died in the war?  
I look down again.  
What is it, it's so dark I can't see well.  
Drawing the moonlight on me, I can see only someone's remains?  
Getting tired of it, I sigh (I couldn't do it for some reason) and rub inner canthus with my right hand.  
I'm so thin my limbs look just like a skin and bones.  
But, now, the hand which passed through my eye socket, didn't have even a speck of skin.  
Ahh.  
I somehow felt that was the case.  
But, un, ah, really?  
I look around once more.  
Then, fortunately, I found the thing I was looking for.  
A slightly larger puddle.  
To be honest, I would be okay with any reflection of my figure, but I'm fortunate I can find out so soon.  
It rained yesterday, huh?  
I look into the large puddle.

...

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Ohoo! What a splendid skull desu wa.  
A once in a hundred years sculpture, seriously.  
This seems to be a quite beautiful shape (I don't know if I'm a man or a woman, so I have to use such expression).

What a splendid carving.

...

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I somehow became bones during my sleep.

[Previous Chapter] ( ) []

## Footnotes

1. 僕 MC used Boku so far. Boku is an expression used by men 

# Chapter 2

What to do?

The words didn't come out.

When I woke up, nothing of my memory remained, I don't know where this is and my body turned out to be only bones.

How should I say it, the situation developed way too rapidly and even if I complain, no one will be able to answer me in these ruins.

I already don't know what's what.

Putting the loss of my memories aside, what should I do without skin, muscles, and internal organs?

At least, if I only lost my memories (I was still overwhelmed at first) I may be able to find a human settlement and start a new life.

I would find a job, put my life in order, get a wife and lead a happy life.

Furthermore, my memories might have returned in the middle, and I actually turned to be the son of a noble, the inheritance would fall to my lap, I would start a business and make a lot of money, such development may have happened.

However, only the bones remain from me!

No, shall I switch my mindset a little?

I should collect the scattered things again little by little.

I think, therefore I am.

Although I don't know if I'm a man or a woman, for starters let's call myself with 「Jibun」<sup>1</sup>.

I will confirm the things about myself one by one.

I may be able to decide what to do once I find some clues.

Well then, let's begin.

First, the only thing left of me is this skeleton.

Also, human common sense and a certain amount of knowledge.

Ah, shit. I'm completely empty.....

Is having an intelligence a good thing or a bad thing?

Although it's strange how am I able to think without a brain, let's not think about it.

Then, I would like to think about what to do from now on, but honestly, I have no idea at all.

If I was a human, I would think about securing food or finding a secure place to sleep, getting a wife and leaving descendants behind and such things.

But, I'm not a human anymore (Although I would like to think that I still am a human in philosophical meaning), therefore food is not necessary for me.

And I also think that I don't need a secure place to sleep. Although I have slept until a while ago, I very much doubt that I will need to sleep from now on.

I also have a feeling that leaving behind descendants is also....., a no. (But, if there was a lovely girl around, I have a feeling that I would want to flirt with her)

But, I don't have a reproductive organ in the first place, so I don't know if I'm a man or a woman.

Huh? If I'm fond of girls, does that make me a man?

Wait, wait, there are girls who like other girls, it's too early to come to a conclusion.

In any case, I myself understand that I don't want to disappear as I am.

In that case, I should go to a nearby cave and gaze at clouds leisurely.

No, wrong.

I don't desire such a thing.

I think I wouldn't be able to withstand such empty life.

I hate the thought of just waiting for my mind and body to wear out.

In the first place, the premise is wrong.

It's not「What to do」, but「What do I want to do」.

Therefore, I noticed one important thing that was left in me.

It's not intelligence nor the knowledge. It's「Heart」.

Although I have become like this, I can still cry, laugh and get angry.

It feels nice for some reason.

Thus, this is all of me right now.

Then, for now, what do I want to do? What would make me happy?

I see, that is so.

I would like to meet someone.

[ ] ( „ ^ ^ „ ) [ ]

## Footnotes

1. Oneself/Myself [←](#)

# Chapter 3

The thing I desire the most right now.

That is to meet someone, I didn't even dream that the thing which I desire most is something like that.

I prepare for a journey while feeling that I wasn't a person who gets lonely so easily.

Although I say that, eating is not necessary, there is no need to sleep and I don't feel the heat nor the coldness.

Change of clothes and food are not needed.....

But, while it may be so right now, what about when I actually meet someone?

I look at the reflection of my figure in the nearby puddle again.

Aan, I'm wearing a splendid birthday suit after all.

I'm not wearing a jacket nor pants, of course, no underwear either.

In fact, without any skin, muscles and internal organs I'm flawlessly naked.

A healthy set of teeth, a nice skull, bewitching collar bones and ribs that show off my curvy, gentle figure.

In a sense, the ultimate nude.

If someone could see this nude beauty without any wicked thoughts would be a miracle, a miracle!

Although, I think no one would want to see such figure in the first place.

It's only natural.

If I met someone while looking like this the opponent would most likely be considerably surprised, depending on the circumstances he might mistake me for a demon and attack me.

Well, it wouldn't be a mistake.

Depending on the viewpoint, I certainly may be a demon.

Uun, what should I do about that?

It doesn't seem like anyone would want to meet someone looking like me, I think.

How to say this, I don't understand it myself, but first of all, I want to talk to somebody.

Honestly, the topic could be anything.

Talk about weather, false virginity loss stories, I think that I would be able to enjoy anything at this point.

I just want to converse. Only that.

Of course, I understand that may not be an easy thing to do.

But, for now, I want to do that which I desire the most.

I wonder if just holding a conversation wouldn't be a huge hurdle?

Just hiding in shadows while talking would be enough.

It's not necessary to show my figure.

In the worst case, I will try to obtain clothes somewhere.

If there will be a need to obtain clothes, because I have no money, I will have no choice, but to steal them.

However, I understand that somewhere deep inside my heart, I don't wish to do that.

In that sense, talking while hiding seems like a good idea.

Although I would give an eternal impression of a suspicious person.

First of all, let's try to find a place with people during the night.

I should be able to avoid public gaze better during the darkness of the night.

Ah, wait, wait.

If I want to go, in which direction should I go?

I look around.

I find a road in front of me.

The ground under my feet feels harder over here.

Let's try advancing along this road.

But, I certainly can't magnificently walk in the middle of the road.

Moving on the side of the road while hiding behind obstacles is somewhat frightening.

Anyway, I was able to find an indicator.

I advance on the road with expectations.

That much is enough to nourish my heart.

[ ] ( ♪ ♪ ) [ ]

# Chapter 4

I want to meet someone, I want to talk with somebody.  
I advance on the road with such thoughts.  
Although I have thought that the city converted into debris wasn't that significant, I have quickly arrived at castle walls.  
Although I say castle walls, it's a fence twice as high as human made from wood.  
The fence is broken here and there, it's able to break in from anywhere.  
After I timidly pass through what seems to be the main gate, I immediately hide behind a big rock.  
To be frank, I don't think there's a need to be so afraid.  
But, to be honest, coming across someone all of sudden scares me.  
It's an unfamiliar land.  
I don't know who is who.  
Anyway, if I find someone, I will hide in the shade.  
Then, speaking with them slowly from there is the current plan.  
I quietly lay in wait behind a rock outside of a town.  
Although it looks like a gentle, hilly area, it's gritty with rocks without much vegetation.  
It's a typical wasteland.  
I take my previous comment back.  
There seems to be hardly a person.  
Although the land is reasonably open, I don't see any lights in the houses.  
This, I should probably start walking.....  
My worry was right.  
After that, I wandered for three days.  
I remember the frightening first daybreak.  
I was moving while hiding when I noticed the surroundings brightening.  
The sun began to rise.  
For some reason, I started shaking at the sight of the sunrise while hiding behind a rock.  
Does something happen when an existence like me basks in the sunlight?  
The light of the day belongs to living things.

I wonder if it's something like a poison to an undead like me?

Such thought suddenly crossed my mind and I hid in the shadow at once.

After a while, I started moving along the movement of the shadows.

And then, after the sun ascended completely, I timidly presented my fingertip to the sun, but.....

Ah, I'm glad, nothing has happened.

Finger, hand, arm, shoulder, when I confirm all those are alright, I finally bathe in the sun with my whole body.

Un, the sunlight is quite strong.

But, I can't tan anymore.

Are, will my bones turn yellow if get burned I wonder?

It's fortunate that I am able to confirm by walking all day.

I proceed nervously.

Little by little, the scenery starts changing.

The rocky scenery started showing signs of vegetation first and then, finally, the surroundings become everything, but trees.

I'm inside a forest.

I discover a suitable hole in the tree and curled myself up in there.

I have become aware of something from the several days of travelling.

Although this body doesn't need to eat or sleep, a「rest」seems to be still necessary.

The body certainly doesn't get tired, but because of the vigilance during the travel, my mind feels tired.

The body does not move at all and I don't sleep, but my mental fatigue heals when I do nothing, but stay motionless.

Naturally, I have to lower my vigilance of the surroundings and relax.

However, when I enter the tree hole and curl up like this, I certainly look just like remains.

Before long, a centipede coils around my rib cage and other bugs roll around my skull.

A big earthworm is constantly going back and forth through my eye socket.

I feel like crying (It goes without saying that I can't do it well. Of course, tears don't come out), but I already gave up.

And then, after resting my body for a while, I stand up, shake off insects from by

body and start walking again.

7th day in the evening.

I found a small human village from a top of a hill.

I can tell that there are people moving. I can see smoke coming from chimneys of few houses.

I finally found it.....

I walk down the hill while feeling nervous.

[ ] ( ● " ● ) [ ]

# Chapter 5

Are you able to greet a person you don't know with ease?

No, wrong, wrong.

I don't aim to greet them, but to have just a little talk.

It's really just that, but..... ah, it's scary after all?

Even if I have the courage to speak, if I get ignored I will get really depressed.

But, that is only if I get close enough to speak.

Nene, what if I think from the other side?

I would be surprised at the sudden greeting and would put up my vigilance because he is a stranger.

For example, if I was unarmed and a person with a sword on his waist would call out to me?

If that happened to me I would be really afraid.

Buuut, I really don't have any weapons.

Even though I have no sword, skin, muscles and internal organs, such perfect unarmed state, why I must be so cautious?

Ah, wouldn't the partner of my conversation be freaked out because I have nothing on me instead, tehepero? (for some reason, my tongue doesn't come out)

Serious reflection.

Serious reflection completed.

Ehh, since I woke up at the ruins, I have been moving in shadows.

While carefully advancing forward, I finally found a small village.

However, the desire of conversation with the people of the village.

At first, I have slowly approached the village while waiting for a good timing to talk.

However, when I saw the figure of the people nearby, I blankly jumped out of my cover in joy.

「Konnichiwa—☆」

What a hilarious greeting.

Of course, my joy was expressed with my whole skeleton body.

A welcome pose with both arms spread wide open.

However, the partner of my conversation cried out「Gyaa!」and fell down while going in reverse nodesu.

I was in a daze for a while, but after several seconds, I have remembered that I'm stark naked and fidgeted in embarrassment.

But, if that's the case, hentai! I have wanted to escape from reality with those words.

But, when I turned around, I thought about the irreparable damage and finally regained myself nodesu.

Then, I have finally noticed that the person who has fallen on the ground is a kindhearted looking aunty.

I was so in high spirits that I didn't even notice who my conversation partner is.

In the evening, called out by a skeleton voice, anyone would be frightened.

But, first of all, I can't leave aunty in the middle of the road.

I intended to carry her in both hands to the shade of a tree.

However, that backfired.

I should have fled immediately nodesu.

Before I could drag the plump like a pig aunty to the tree completely, the villagers who heard the aunty's scream a while ago started gathering.

In their eyes, I must look like a demon who stunned the aunty and is trying to kidnap her.

And before long, they arrived

Ah, let's stop the honorifics because I'm tired. I will reflect seriously later.

「What, that fellow」

「Why are the bones moving around」

「Disgusting.....」

「Ora, monster! Release the old woman!」

The villagers encircle me in distance cautiously.

I heard the sound of gulping once in a while.

In such tense situation, I expressed my present feelings with「Hawawawawa!」

Although I am surrounded by many people, can't I at least act calm?

I separate from aunty in a hurry.

The villagers secure aunty immediately.

Then, when they turn back to me, first, they throw a stone timidly at me.

Although the small stone passed through my rib cage, it hit a bone on the way

out.

That really hurt.

To feel pain, that's some punishment game!

「It hurts, stop it, stop it. You will chip my humerus!」

Because I have no nerves, I shouldn't be feeling pain, yet how unreasonable, how unreasonable!

Villagers became excited at my timid comment.

「Oi, it seems that it worked」

「Nice, get more!」

The quantity of hurled stones increased.

After I crouched down on the ground, the villagers all at once seized me.

My whole body was pushed down to the ground.

「Ah, please handle my collar bone more gently」

「This fellow, even though he is in trouble he's quite calm!?」

It looks like I'm going to be dragged somewhere just like that.

Where am I going to be taken to?

I'm uneasy.

But, I'm pleased with one thing.

Though I have never confirmed it before, even though I wanted to have a conversation, it seems that I can talk even without vocal cords.

Why does it come out, I have no idea, but for now.

Yatta!!

[ ] ( ◆" ◆◆ ) [ ]

# Chapter 6

I was taken by the villagers who were holding me tightly on the both sides to some dirty hut.

I have received a terrible treatment.

I was made to sit down and my whole body was tied with a rope to a pillar.

Although the village men were complaining things like「The rope slips through the bones!」「It's so thin it's hard to tie up!」, but they finally tied me up.

But, I wonder why they do such bothersome thing?

If I was a human and found a demon, I would club it to death.

And yet, they bring me to such a place, I don't understand the meaning behind that.

I thought it was strange so I ask.

「Nene. Why don't you beat me to death right away?」

「Yes? More than that, what are you?」

「Umm..... I wonder?」

「Are you playing dumb?」

「It's different」

The man sighs.

「Anyway, something strange came to our village, we need to consult with village chief first. That's the rule. Though I don't think there's a need to in the first place」

「Seriously?」

「Why does this fellow look so happy!」

The man sighs unpleasantly and leaves the hut in haste.

The first contact was in a sense the worst, but I finally had a proper conversation, hehehe.

In any case, this situation may not be so good.

In the worst case, I will really get killed.

Are, but, how do I die?

If I was a human, I would die if my head was cut off or even from the loss of blood.

But, me?

Would I die if my neck bones are cut?

Or will I die if my skull is crushed?

Uwaa, no way, no way.

Either way, I'd rather not try.

While thinking such, it became slightly noisy outside the hut.

I hear people talking outside.

A short time later, the hut door's open and a tiny Ojiichan enters.

A number of men are standing behind him, is he village chief-san?

Yosh, smooth human relationships start from greetings.

「Konnichiwa~」

Silence.....

My greetings are met with silence, and soon, the villagers start to be noisy.

It was just a greeting, but what is this feeling?

While this feeling was going on, village chief was just indifferently staring at me.

Because he was staring so much, it became uncomfortable, so I unconsciously blurted out.

「Ojisan, your eyebrows are really long」

Silence.....

Ah, it's so after all.

But, I didn't say it to hurt you, don't take it personally.

It's true, you know?

The village chief nods and says「Fumu」at me and ordered the men to leave the hut.

Then, the first thing he said.

「My dear, what are you?」

I honestly answered to the village chief who was frequently staring at me.

「I don't know」

「Where did you come from?」

「Umm, from the ruins a little far away. Do you know them?」

Village chief shakes his head.

「Ahh, you don't know」

「Fumu. But it doesn't make a difference. I want to know your true identity」

「True identity?」

But, I certainly can't say that I am I.

I have a certain feeling that we won't get anywhere if I say that.

Ah, no good.

Like this, the conversation will continue in a loop.

If that's the case, then, I should tell my story since the beginning.

I start explaining what has happened to me.

The Village chief is a relatively good listener as he threw in appropriate comments.

It was somewhat pleasing, so I start talking what happened to me in the past week with excitement.

「I see. That must have been misfortune, wasn't it?」

「Misfortune?」

「You have become just bones, didn't you?」

「That's so. But, I don't think it's that difficult, it's miracle!」

The Village chief laughs.

「Then, what do you plan on doing from now on?」

「From..... now..... on.....?」

「That's right」

「No, I didn't think about it at all. I came this far only because I only desired to talk with someone」

The Village chief nods with 「Fumu」 again.

「It may be a weird question to ask you, who is just bones, but do you.....『Eat』 something?」

「I went without eating and drinking this past week. I think that's my new record」

After saying that, Village chief looked into my eyes (or at least the place my eyes should be) and said.

「Do you want to stay in this village for a while?」

Eh, that's a proposal I could only hope for!

「Yes, yes, yes! I want! I want to live in this village!」

「No, I didn't say anything about living here, though」

「Ah, living here is not good?」

「Uumu」

Village chief smiles bitterly.

「Fumu, let's wait and see for a while」

After saying that, he stands up and leaves the hut.

When he opens the door, he seemed to explain the details to the other villagers.

After his explanation ended, he entered the hut again.

「I don't know if you require bed, but you can stay in this hut, for now」

「Umm, I'd like to have the rope removed, I wish」

After hearing me, Village chief began talking with the other villagers in a low voice.

「Untie the rope」

「Is that okay?」

「I don't mind, there won't be any harm. It doesn't eat, you can think of it as a pet」

The Village chief whispers to other villagers while looking this way.

「However.....」

The villagers still persist.

「Besides, if we come to mutual understanding it may be useful. It doesn't look too bright though」

Village chief~ I can hear you, I can hear you~

[ ] ( •" • ) [ ]

# Chapter 7

After that, I who became free was cheerfully walking around the village. But, not a single soul is out in the village that became completely dark. Occasionally, children look at me through small windows, but 「Yaa」

When I greet them, they get startled and withdraw their faces.

Un, boring.

How boring.

Though it's not important, I said it twice.

It can't be helped.

I guess it's time for good children to sleep.

I will return to the hut obediently for today.

Are, but, does that mean the children who are awake are bad children?

Because bad children won't talk to me, I talk to myself.

It's already quite late, what kind of children are bad children?

Ecchi Neesan? Guhehe.

Maa, all's good if I can find a drunk ossan to talk with~

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I, it's not like I'm lonely or anything!

From the gap in the hut where the wind usually whizzes, a morning sun came. Finally morning~ I stand up slowly and stretch myself. The pleasant feeling of stretching is not there, but imitating like this is important. I behaved myself in the hut last night.

I had fun playing committing suicide by hanging a rope from the ceiling and hanging my white bones on the rope, then falling down.

Particularly, the「Struggling and Dying」poses are important and can be considered high-level techniques.

I extended my right hand towards the direction of the residential area and tried to crawl in that direction with my last strength.

Anyway, with the rising sun, I thought about going out to play.

The hut's door slightly opened.

And then, a tiny face appeared and stared at me.

Arara, a girl?

A girl wrapped in a long, thin cloth is staring at me.

I don't know the reason, but I stayed silent and stared back.

Then, as I have thought, a tiny body slipped in the hut through the small opening.

How old is she?

Six? Seven?

A girl with such feeling.

A long sleeved dress and long skirt. Large round eyes, a tiny nose, and mouth.

It seems the long, thin cloth is apparently a bandage.

A beautiful blonde hair is escaping through the gaps of the bandage on her head.

That child comes right in front of me and chattered with her mouth many times over.

Un?

At first, I thought my ears (although I have no ears) were acting funny, but I was wrong.

Because the villagers started their daily activities, the inside of the hut becomes filled with the sounds of busy villagers and chirping of birds.

Un, I got it.

I bent down in order to read the movements of her mouth, but it didn't go well.

「Un」

I groan with a troubled tone.

But even still, the girl continued chattering with her mouth.

Such situation continued, but it didn't seem that she realized that I couldn't understand what she wanted to say.

Although I didn't understand, she embraced me tightly.

Be that as it may, she could only cling to my spine.

The girl hugged my spine while sitting inside my rib cage.

I was perplexed by this weird feeling the girl was giving me, but after a while, she separated from me.

Un, I don't understand.

But, for now, let's stroll around the village as planned.

I point at myself and the door, then look at her.  
It seems my intentions were conveyed.  
I present her my bony, rather my right-hand bones and she took it without hesitation.  
Then, we leave the hut hand in hand.

People of the village had already come and went when I left the hut.

A woman who goes to the stream with a basket of laundry.

A man with an ax enters the forest.

A person that goes hunting while carrying a bow on his shoulder.

Many children in high spirits.

I thought there would be people I could talk to, but I guess I was wrong.

Everybody looks so busy in the morning, it would be difficult to talk.

I wonder if I should try talking to them when the things calm down in the afternoon?

Let's stroll in the village until then.

The vigor of the people is different in the morning then in the evening.

Then, after walking for a while, a black haired Oneesan in her twenties looks towards us and mutters.

「Oya, Misery?」

This child's name?

「YOu are called Misery?」

The little girl looks at me absentmindedly for a while, then grasps my hand tightly and nods.

Eh, what, what was that right now?

Ah, well.

But, Oneesan's eyes look strict.

「You, where do you plan on taking that child?」

Yes, a false accusation.

「I don't plan to take her anywhere on particular. This child somehow came to my hut, so we went on a stroll together」

「Haa~?」

Oneesan looks at me with suspicion in her eyes.

「Misery, is what this fellow says the truth?」

At last, when Misery nods, Oneesan finally seemed to be convinced.

「I see. But, of all things, this thing」

What's about this thing?

Are you talking about me?

Oneesan mutters something after staring at me for a while.

「Oi, you」

「What?」

「What was your name again?」

「I don't know」

「I see, well, since you are just bones, I will call you Bones」

Eeh.

「I'm Emily. Oi, Bones. I have something to do right now, wait for me by the stream in the evening」

Somehow, I have been called out by Oneesan with a good character.

[ ] ( • ^ " ^ • ) [ ]

# Chapter 8

After having promised, Emily somewhere quickly went away, leaving me and Misery behind.

The morning complicated atmosphere has subsided and the village has regained its calmness.

Well, then, shall I go catch someone?

That's what I thought, but the village became somewhat deserted.

I think that humans would get worn out from doing so much work.

Aan.

Is that it?

Only elderly and children are now left in the village.

Just now, a gang of three children passed by me.

Maa, I thought it wouldn't be bad to play with children, this time, 「Nee nee」 so I called to them.

But, the most naughty looking boy glared at me and threw something my way.

I recall stones being thrown at me yesterday.

I was greatly perplexed, but once it hit my skull, I noticed that it was a small nut.

I pick it up and look at it dumbfoundedly.

Then, the children throw a similar nut again and run away.

Mou, what is this?

I look at Misery.

「Did the nuts hit you?」

She shakes her head.

Did they throw so they would hit this child?

「Ne ne, are those children Misery's friends?」

When I asked, Misery just stared at me, without nodding her head.

I stroll around the village aimlessly.

Misery didn't let go of my hand as usual.

It's much better than walking alone.

Even though we don't talk, the atmosphere isn't strange.

I thought it was very natural to have her next to me.

Therefore, I just leave it as it is.

However, when the sun was at its highest, Misery's stomach let out a tiny sound. I stop in place and look at Misery.

「Are you hungry? DO you want to return home to eat?」

After thinking for a while, Misery starts walking while pulling my hand.

She took me to a small house on the edge of the village.

She lets go of my hand and opens the door of the house with both of her hands.

Then, she grasps my hand again and pulls me inside the house.

There are no signs of people in the house.

I was greeted by only a dirt floor.

I catch a sight of wooden pillars, stone walls, a furnace and a pan hanging on the wall.

The furnace is covered by dust.

There were three chairs around a table.

Misery sits me on one of those chairs and runs to the cabinet.

She takes a bread from there with both hands, puts it on the table and sits next to me.

She divides the not so big bread in half and presents me with one.

Fumu.

I tore off a piece of the bread and threw it into my mouth.

The swallowed bread falls from under my chin without chewing thanks to gravity.

I caught it with my other hand which I held in my rib cage.

「As you can see, I can't eat. Please eat it all」

Misery looked at me with her round eyes without moving for a while, then she burst out in a laugh.

I wonder what was so funny?

She tears a small piece of bread with her fingers and throws it to my bony mouth.

I caught it the same way as a little while ago, but this time, I carried diligently right into her mouth.

It continued until the whole bread has disappeared.

We played in the house after that.

It seems she's fond of dangling from my ribs.

She hangs from my body and swings without falling.

But, before long, my ribs made a light sound, she got scared and stopped.  
A short time later, Misery dozed off so I carried her to the bed.  
The afternoon quickly passed.  
Sunlight of setting sun came through the small window.

「You are late」  
Emily blames me for being late, but I don't retort.  
I have come to the stream near the village as promised.  
「Where did you go?」  
Because the tone she said that in was awfully gentle, I obediently talked about today.  
「You have looked after that child, huh? Thank you」  
「Wrong, wrong. We just played together」  
Emily sighs.  
「I was worried so I occasionally passed by you」  
「Eh, I didn't notice at all」  
「Because I didn't want you to notice」  
A slightly downside eyes face slightly covered by freckles, her red hair seems to be slightly sparkling in the sunlight.  
「Just how much do you know about that girl?」  
She didn't look at me. She muttered while looking at the sunlight reflected in the stream.  
「I don't know much. By the state of her house, she probably doesn't have a family？」  
「What else？」  
「Also, the bandage on her head, that, that's not a fashion, right？」  
「Did you ask someone？」  
「Ah well, today, I was able to talk only with you. Because it seems like that girl can't talk」  
Is that so? Emily said.  
「That girl, she has lost both her parents when she was three. Because she doesn't have any other relatives, she's being looked after by the villagers」  
「Hou hou」  
「Maa, you may think it's just a common story. But, it's not. Did it happen about half a year ago? That girl, she almost died」

「The injury on her head?」

「Un. She fell down on her head from a slightly high cliff. It was a severe injury with lots of blood. I was the first one who saw her falling」

「The fact she's still wearing the bandages, does it mean she's not recovered yet?」

「No, the wound is closed. But, the scar is still standing out」

「I see~」

I turn my eyes (at least I think I do) towards Emily.

「So, what do you want me to do?」

Right to the business, huh. Emily sighs.

「I thought if you wouldn't take care of that child」

「Alright~」

「It's a child, you know? Do you understand how hard it will be?」

She looks at me with a surprised expression.

「I have nothing else to do anyway」

Emily sighs longly.

「I see. But, as expected you won't do it for free, right?」

「Umm, in that case.....」

When I tell her I would like to sometimes talk with her, she laughed out in amazement.

「You have no greed, huh」

「We are of equal status in this regard. But, why do you treat Misery so kindly?」

She said that Misery doesn't have any relatives.

Emily should be a complete stranger.

Emily looks at me in wonder and says.

「Do you need a reason to treat other people kindly?」

She says so and laughs.

[ ] ( ◆" ◆ ) [ ]

# Chapter 9

The next day, I have started living together with Misery.  
I went to pick up Misery as soon as the sun has risen.  
It seems like Emily has spread the news to the villagers.  
When we were strolling around the village, I was occasionally called out.  
「Morning, Bones」Emily greeted me.  
「Wassup. Bones」Lumberjack Gen-san also greeted me.  
「It's not like I have recognized you yet!」Roy-kun who seems to be their close friend said.  
Although there are still a lot of villagers who put distance between me, but I don't feel the obstacle I felt yesterday.  
By the way, we were strolling aimlessly.  
I let Misery eat the same way as yesterday.  
Then, after she fell asleep, I suddenly realized.  
I gazed around the house while elbows on the table.  
Emily who brought Misery a lunch was cleaning the house the whole noon.  
She complained that the house wasn't cleaned for a while.  
But, yesterday, when she told me about Misery's parents, she looked worried about the state of the house.  
Apart from that, the first day happily passed.  
We were happily playing in the river today, but my leg got stuck in a slightly deep place.  
And apparently, I don't float!  
Seriously? I can't swim. I have received a slight shock.  
However, after successfully pulling out my leg「The drowned spirit demands further victims」I played it off, Misery was very pleased.  
My current balance is zero.  
Although I said that I will take care of Misery, is it alright to just play like this?  
It doesn't feel like taking care of her at all.  
When I told Emily so.  
「Playing with her and keeping her company is enough」  
「Is that so? But, I can't help, but feel that I'm not taking care of Misery」

properly]

When I told Emily that I want to work, she looked at me with a puzzled expression.

「What will you do after you work? It does not look like your body needs money though」

「No, if I earn some money, I could feed this child properly, I could even buy her clothes or something」

Eh, she became interested.

「You, can you do something?」

「No, I don't know about that. Therefore, I'm consulting with you」

Emily thought about it for a while, then proposed.

「Then, how about cutting wood with Gen-san?」

「I will do it!」

Gen-san seems to be very busy right now because the nearby town ordered a lot of wood.

But, like this, I won't be able to look after Misery.

Sensing my worry, Emily said.

「I thought that it was bad pushing everything onto you so, let's take turns looking after her?」

「Let's do that, let's do that」

It seems Emily will go and inform Gen-san right away.

After we finished talking, I heard violent knocking on the door.

When I opened the door, Roy-kun was standing there.

He is a slightly blunt youth of around 20 years old.

「Hey, I'm also worried about Misery's situation」

Roy-kun enters the house and looks at the sleeping Misery.

「Is he perhaps another kind human who look after others without a reason?」

When I whispered in Emily's ear, she burst out laughing.

「No, that's different. His aim is me」

Are, is that so?

「Are you lovers?」

「No, you are wrong. I won't even let him hold my hand」

Do we look like flirting while whispering into each other's ears?

When Roy-kun came back, he cleared his throat loudly.

「It will soon become dark. Emily, I will send you home」

I stealthily addressed Emily again.

「He's so obvious, but why don't you return together?」

「N, I intended to do that」

「Emily!」

To Roy-kun who annoyedly interrupted our conversation, Emily gloomily responded.

「Alright. Then, Bones, take care of the rest」

Emily opens the door and leaves.

Roy-kun also left the home while staring at me.

I see the two off.

What take care of the rest, so noisy, you are unrelated in the first place, Roy-kun storms after Emily.

The two people leave side-by-side

If I had skin, muscles, and internal organs, would I be able to walk alongside someone like that?

Maa, it can't be helped since I'm asking for too much.

First, let's be thankful that at least bones remained.

[ ] ( ◆" ◆ ) [ ]

# Chapter 10

It looks like Emily really did as she said.  
Gen-san came immediately the next day.  
He's a tall man with arms thick as trees and a long beard.  
「Of course, you are good starting from today, right?」  
He said in a loud voice as soon as he opened the door of my house.  
He lifted me up by my shoulders.  
He grasps me so strongly that I am not even able to stir.  
Ah, yes.....  
I don't have the right to veto.  
I was dragged to the forest just like that.  
By the way, Misery didn't come today.  
Emily is probably taking care of her.  
That being the case, I was dragged to the forest I was walking in a while ago.  
Gen-san who doesn't talk about unnecessary things said 'here' and passed me an axe.  
After receiving the axe in panic, my hands started shaking.  
Most likely because of my muscleless hands, I have troubles holding it.  
But, I have somehow managed to swing.  
Although Gen-san looked slightly worried when he saw that.  
「Take a look at me」  
Saying that, he took the axe from my hands and swung at the nearby tree.  
Gen-san swings the axe continuously with a great vigor.  
The tree was chopped down in a blink of an eye.  
One wonderful log fell down right in front of me.  
「Do it like that」  
He hands me the spare axe.  
Since Gen-san's immediately shifted his attention from me, I also went to look for a suitable tree.  
I found a reasonable looking tree and started working.  
When the sun goes down.  
I was finally able to cut down one.

Haahaa, cutting trees is seriously serious.  
But, there's a strange sense of accomplishment.  
I'm satisfied with my performance of my new hands.  
Un, a good log.

How is it? Gen-san. It's alright to praise me, you know?  
I take a glimpse at the working man.  
Gen-san has already cut down five trees.  
He's sitting on a stump and smoking tobacco.  
「You, have no strength at all」

No way, he was looking properly!  
Moreover, I'm being judged!  
I want to kill that guy who was feeling accomplished a while ago.  
But, even still, Gen-san asked me.  
「But, it's really busy at the moment. Can I ask for your help tomorrow?」

The answer is, of course, a yes.  
「Well then, let's end for today」

I call out to Gen-san who is preparing to leave.  
「Umm, is it alright if I stay a little longer?」

In fact, I think I just got the hang of it so I wanted to try cut one more.  
Gen-san seemed a little troubled, but he gave me his consent.  
After he left, I found a tree bigger than the last one and begun to cut it.  
As expected, doing it the second time is different from the first.  
Since I'm just bones so I can't wield the axe well, but the axe goes to the trunk smoothly.

After a short time.  
When the tree was almost down, I swung the axe harder than normally.  
The tree falls my way for some reason.  
Seriously?

I am dumbfoundedly staring at the falling tree without dodging.  
The tree fell down at me just like that.  
I felt a big impact on my entire body.

For a moment, I didn't know what was happening.  
I must have fallen on the ground since I can see the crawling insects.  
I noticed that I couldn't raise by pushing up with my arms.

N?

N?

I can't even move my neck.

I move my line of sight to look around.

Then, I saw something white under the fallen tree.

...

.....

.....

Un, no matter how you look at it, it's my body.

Are, did my head possibly roll away?

Moreover, I can't move at all.

Somebody, save me~!

[ ] ( ↗ ⚡ ⚡ ↘ ) [ ]

# Chapter 11

Awful, this is seriously awful.  
What is awful? I can't move an inch.  
Although I'm conscious, my arms and legs don't move.  
Because my lower jaw flew off somewhere, I can't even talk.  
But, a new discovery.  
Although I'm scattered all over the place, I'm still alive.  
No, since I'm just bones, I may already be dead.  
Therefore, that may not be an accurate expression.  
However, it's certain that my body parts are all over the place because I can see myself.  
It's a strange sight.  
Is this a sight of no longer being myself?  
It's like staring at a dead animal.  
Is it a sense of loosing myself after being decapitated?  
But, that over there is surely me, and me over here is also me.  
In any case, I must do something about this.  
But, I can't move, I can't talk, I'm just a skeleton scattered around.  
What to do if I can't talk and move?  
I have no clue.  
Anyway, Gen-san should come tomorrow.  
I have no choice, but to wait.

Like that, the sun started raising.  
As expected, Gen-san came, but it's not just him.  
Emily and Misery are next to him.  
Misery was looking restlessly around from between the two people, then her sight fell on me.  
After she ran towards me in panic, she hugged my skull close to her chest and started crying.  
Both Gen-san and Emily were surprised at my scattered figure.  
But, as expected, they are adults.  
They seemed to understand the situation.

「Oi, Bones! Bones!」

Emily calls me in Misery's embrace many times.

I desperately wanted to answer.

It's alright, I can hear you.

Therefore, there's no need to cry.

I wanted to say that, but the voice is not coming out.

What should I do?

In the first place, how did I make myself speak before?

Misery still cries loudly.

I can't answer no matter how many times I'm spoken to.

Seeing me in such state, everyone seemed to misunderstand.

The two adult's faces turned blue.

But, they can't think of anything.

They gave up with a sigh and collected my bones.

Then, they went back to the village with them.

There's a huge uproar back in the village.

A lot of people came after it became known what has become of me.

My bones were put in the usual hut.

Misery was crying next to it as usual.

Gen-san entered carrying a big box.

No matter how you look at it, it's a coffin.

Then, I finally noticed.

That this is really serious.

But, there is nothing that the present me can do.

Emily carefully put my bones in the coffin.

「You have broken apart, but. The last thing I can do is to put you back together.....」

She said with a slightly wet eyes.

She assembles me in the coffin like pieces of a puzzle.

And finally, when the frame of the body was completed, she put the skull on the neck.

「Ah, it won't do without this」

Finally, she picked up the lower jaw and connected it to the skull.

After she finished, Roy-kun came over with the coffin lid.

「Gen-san, I should put the lid over and then nail it with a hammer, right?」

「Ou」Gen-san answers shortly.

Roy-kun leaned the lid against the wall and looked down at me.

「But, is there a need to go that far for him?」

Gen-san quiteley answered「Yes」.

「In the first place, this would never happen if you have asked for my help」

Gen-san hangs his head, Emily starts shedding tears.

「Gen-san is not in the wrong. I have introduced the job to Bones」

Roy-kun brings the lid to the coffin.

「Others are already diggin a hole for the coffin」

Hearing those words, I clearly understood the fear within me.

I am put in a wooden coffin, lid nailed with nails, buried in a soil.

Surely I'm just bones, but I have consciousness.

If I was a human, that would be the same as being buried alive.

Crap, crap, crap, crap, crap, crap, crap.....

If I' buried like that, when will I be able to get out?

When the coffin rots and when the soil is removed from a top of the coffin, but when will that be?

I have no confidence to get out of the soil by myself.

No, there's no guarantee that I will be able to get out in the first place.

I will spend an eternity conscious in the soil.

Just imagining it makes me crazy.

When Roy-kun was about to finally close the lid, I cried in my mind.

Wait! I'm still alive! No, I may be already dead, but, I'm still living!

[ ] ( ♪ ♪ ) [ ]

# Chapter 12

Wait! Wait! Wait!

My head became clear after blanking for a while.

I no longer cared about my appearances.

But, I don't what to do.

Not being able to figure it out, I cry as hard as possible.

Wait! Wait! Wait!

「Wait!」

I think I heard a loud voice resounding inside the hut.

That was definitely my voice.

Misery suddenly stopped crying. Then she looked inside the coffin.

A, are?

She puts her hands on the edge of the coffin and stares at my eyes.

The other people also one by one peek inside the coffin.

A, ara?

Umm.....

Umm.....

Umm.....

「Everyone, did you hear that?」

After several seconds of silence.

Misery nods her head.

Which reminds me, can I move my body?

I just had a hunch, but after trying, it really moved.

I grab the edges of the coffin and pull myself up.

...

.....

.....

Oii!

Seriously!

Somehow, I revived.

After getting up from the coffin, Misery tightly embraces me.

I embrace her back.

Since I have no chest, I am not able to hug her properly back.

But, Misery wrapped inside my rib cage around my spine.

The child's warmth penetrates through my bones.

Nevertheless.

That was dangerous~

I have reached the limits? of life once again.

Emily stares dumbfoundedly with tears in her eyes.

「Y, you.....?」

「Umm, somehow, it seems that I have revived」

Tehepero (I can't stick out my tongue well)

「But, I heard everyone's voice, you know?」

Everyone was stunned for a while, but they were gradually able to swallow the situation.

Their faces changed from blue to red and yellow.

「I cannot help, but think you were just playing dead!」

Pakon, my head was hit.

Because I have no brain, the skull made a nice sound.

Gen-san hardly claps on my shoulders.

Because he clapped so hard, one of my ribs fell off.

But, I picked it up and pushed it back in its place.

Eeh~

This body, it's too convenient.....

I can't help, but give up worrying about this body.

Roy-kun left the hut while clicking his tongue loudly.

Emily also went out of the hut immediately. After following her, I saw her bowing her head to many people.

She is probably apologizing to people who were preparing the funeral.

Which reminds me, I also was in the middle of working.

「Gen-san, is it alright if I return to work?」

For some reason, Gen-san looked at me with a shocked expression.

Then, wahaha he started laughing and said「Alright」.

I left towards the forest with an axe in hand once again.

Together with Gen-san and Misery.

Misery is sticking to my hip bone all the time now.

Wouldn't she obstruct us in work?

I make an eye contact with Gen-san, but he only smiles wryly in return.

I sit Misery on a stump in a safe place and started working with Gen-san.

The first time, the second time, the third time, I have certainly become able to cut a tree faster after some practice.

But, I'm really powerless after all.

In one day, I was able to do a third of Gen-san's work, but an ordinary person would be able to do at least half of that.

But, I don't give up.

If I can work only at half of the speed, all I have to do is work twice as longer.

Even though I do get exhausted mentally, because I have no skin, muscles, and internal organs, I don't get exhausted physically.

When I feel like it, I work consecutively for several days.

Of course, I don't forget about playing with Misery.

She didn't talk as ever.

But, whenever she's with me, she's always childishly giggling.

Her smiling face her returned.

It reached the point you could see her running around with other village children.

When it became so, I entrusted Misery to Emily and devoted myself to work.

I have worked for one week without taking a break.

After doing my share, I even ended up doing Gen-san's share.

Thanks to that, the order of wood was shipped faster than expected.

「Bones, you are amazing」

A certain morning, Gen-san muttered after seeing all the stumps in the working site.

Ah, yes.

Since the work was done early, I also received the money early.

The money in the leather bag I received was more than I was told about.

「Gen-san, this is?」

Gen-san didn't say anything, he turns around and says, coolly.

「Take it」

Aan, I may fall in love.

Which reminds me, I don't know if I'm a male or a female.

I handed the earned money to Emily.

With this, she can buy food and clothes for Misery.

Emily went to the nearby town and bought Misery a lovely jacket and skirt.

Misery was giggling in joy after wearing her new clothes.

She resembles a small giggling jar.

If you pour something in, it will immediately overflow.

By the way, with the remaining money, I have bought a new axe.

I wanted my own working tool.

I was scolded by Emily.

Glared at by Roy-kun.

And my shoulder was clapped on by Gen-san.

Misery is swinging every day on my ribs.

Every day is happiness.

But, for better or worse, I'm a special existence.

Therefore, I was watched.

[ ] ( ●" ● ) [ ]

# Chapter 13

It has been three months since then.

Around the beginning of autumn.

Since I have been earning money by helping Gen-san, Misery and I started living together.

「I'm worried, so I will be living with you」Emily said right after that.

In the end, the three of us started living in Misery's house, but Roy-kun has been scowling at me right after he got to know about it.

Emily should know about Roy-kun's feelings, but she keeps acting good to me in front of him.

When I go out in the morning she says「See you later」and she wipes my skull dry when I come back.

But, the aura around Roy-kun who watched that in shock became worse day by day.

Because she continued acting like that, I came to understand just how much Roy-kun loves her.

But, to be honest, I have no right to interfere in other people's love affairs.

My heart grumbles seeing the depressed Roy-kun.

I should stop playing around~

It was a dinner time on a certain day.

Three people eating at the table became a daily routine.

I more or less participate in the conversations around the table.

Emily sits down after putting a plate in front of Misery.

「Are, you are not eating, Emily?」

It was a casual question, but Emily reacts excessively.

「No, I'm not hungry」

She says with a nervous smile.

N? Is she hiding something?

Misery went to the bed after the meal.

「Bones. A moment」

Emily beckons me to the table.

「What, what~」

Although I answered cheerfully, Emily's mood didn't brighten up.

「What's the matter?」

I ask again.

Emily sighs and says frankly.

「The food prices are rising」

「Un?」

My body does not need food.

Therefore, I have handed all earned money to Emily.

Emily earns her own money while managing the family budget.

I don't do the shopping.

I have no idea how much what costs well.

But, Emily's expression is serious.

「Is it so much more expensive?」

「Un. It looks like the harvest was poor this year」

Poor harvest...

I don't work in the fields, so I didn't realize it's this bad.

Therefore, I ask.

「How much expensive it became?」

「Depends on the thing, but. Maa, roughly double the price?」

She adds that it might become even more expensive.

In other words, the money necessary for daily life will double?

「Then, what should we do?」

Emily faintly smiles at my question.

「No, telling you about it won't really change anything, but. I just wanted to talk about it」

「If I continue working like I was until now, will we manage?」

If so, we could continue living as we are even if the prices double.

However, Emily shakes her head.

「Gen-san's place is not very profitable for a reason. There's a limit of orders...」

「Emily?」

「Ah, sorry. I was lost in a thought. Maa, we just have to do it. Try consulting with Gen-san if he can increase your workload」

She says that and leaves the table.

The next day, I passed a mother and a child on my way to work.

The child looked up at the mother and said.

「Kaa-chan, I'm hungry」

The mother smiled at the child with guilt.

That smile was stuck on my mind for the rest of the day.

The influence of poor harvest already started to appear.

[ ] ( こ み う し て ) [ ]

# Chapter 14

I have asked Gen-san if he could increase my workload, but it wasn't possible. After all, there's no room to sell wood when the food prices doubled in price. The most necessary thing in life for the human is food. Using an extreme logic, even if a human loses his house and clothes, as long as he has food he can survive.

「Sorry 'bout that, Bones」

Gen-san says apologetically.

He's making the same face the mother I saw this morning made.

A face that can't do anything for a hungry child, but smile apologetically.

Can't I do something about it? What should I do?

I can't think of anything even after thinking about it.

I don't even understand anything in the first place.

That day, I finish my job and return to the village's entrance.

Then, someone suddenly pulls me to the side by hand, when I look closely, it was Roy-kun.

「Eh, what?」

I understand that he usually looks at me with a cute resentment.

I thought maybe he would like to scold me, but it doesn't seem to be the case.

Roy-kun says with a serious expression.

「Understand? Don't make too much noise」

「U, un」

What is it, what he wants to do?

He pulls on my thin muscleless hand.

But, why is he pulling me towards that house in the back?

The destination is the hut I was living in at first.

「Emily has requested me to hide you here. I beg you, don't come out, alright?」

「Eh? Eh?」

What is he saying all of sudden?

I don't understand.

「Anyway, don't come out no matter what. Sorry, I don't have the time to explain」

Roy-kun stands up and quickly leaves the hut.

Being confused, I was planning to leave and ask, but a violent shout from outside.

「Oi! Where is that guy who went to the bathroom a little while ago?」

Then, Roy-kun answers.

「Yes, yes! I'm already back!」

Apparently, something is happening at the village square.

But, what is?

No, I won't know even if I think about it.

But, there certainly seems to be something strange going on.

Un, what to do.....

Roy-kun told me to not leave no matter what.

And that was probably the correct call.

But, I just can't stand still if something bad happens.

If I didn't get out before, I would be probably still sitting in the ruins watching the sky.

Let's confirm what is happening first.

While staying hidden as I was told.

But, it also depends on the situation.

If something happens.

There must something that even I could do.

No, this time, there's will be something I will do.

I slightly open the hut's door and look outside.

Although the day has not finished yet, no one is walking around.

But, I can hear anxious voices of the villagers coming from the village square.

I confirm the surroundings and carefully move to the tree's shadow.

I remember the first night I left the ruins while avoiding sight.

And then, I arrived at the village square without being discovered by anyone.

All villagers except me are gathered here.

Several men with iron swords and armor are here.

They are protecting a woman in dark purple robes behind them.

Although I can't tell because of the hood and veil over her face, I can somehow see her beautiful eyes and nose.

The armed men are either soldiers or mercenaries.

The man in the front with the good physique seems to be the captain.

The captain confirms with the woman in the purple robe.

「This is the place without a doubt?」

Yes, the woman in purple answered.

「It matches perfectly with my fortune-telling」

The captain nods and shouts at the gathered villagers.

「Is the village chief here!」

His voice is very powerful. Resounding through the whole village.

The adults who heard the voice got surprised, and there were some children who burst into tears.

After villagers stirred for a moment, the village chief stepped forward.

「It is I」

The captain looks at village chief and says.

「I want to ask you something. Are all the villagers here?」

The village chief looks around the gathered villagers carefully.

Then, he turns towards the captain again and says.

「Everyone is here」

Was that response unexpected?

「Marga-sama?!」

The captain says with a ‘what is going on?’ tone and turns towards Marga, the woman in the purple.

Marga says「Is that so?」with a sigh.

「It seems that the person you are looking for is not here」

「Then, what should we do?」

The captain turns towards Marga.

But, Marga shakes her head.

「No, he's probably hiding somewhere. Everyone, can I ask you?」

Hearing those words, the captain gave a signal.

The armed soldiers enter a nearby family house.

Seeing that the door is locked, they kick the door open.

They knock over the big jar of water and wreck a big wooden tool box.

They break every place where a person could hide.

The village men made angry expressions for a moment, but seeing the swords at the soldiers's waists they could only look with regrettable faces.

The village women were screamed in panic.

If they find a doubtful guy like me in the village, it won't be good for the villagers.

I understand!

I understand that, but!

「Stop it」

I grasp hands of one of the soldiers who was going to kick another door open.

「What are you?」

He turned annoyingly around expecting a villager resisting, but he instead found a skull looking at him with hollow eyes.

The soldier screamed and called for his friends.

I saw Roy-kun in the corner of my view.

His face was saying「Fool!」very clearly.

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# Chapter 15

The other soldiers hearing the racket of me struggling with one of the soldiers have gathered.

The bony I is no match for these well trained, robust soldiers.

Even if there were not soldiers I wouldn't have a chance, as the men of this village easily captured me before.

My powerlessness has no bounds.

I'm dragged to the village square.

Marga, captain, soldiers and villagers look at the bony me and talk among themselves.

Seeing me captured, Misery starts running towards me while crying.

Emily, Gen-san and even Roy-kun stepped out in order to try to help me with bitter expressions.

But, everyone was blocked by the soldiers.

Marga quietly mutters「Is that so?」.

Captain says to Marga while looking at the captured me.

「So that's what meant『You will know the person at glance』huh.....」

Is this even a human in the first place?

But, Marga nods in satisfaction while looking at the pile of bones in front of her.

「There's no mistake」

「No, however.....」

Marga says with a calm, but strong voice.

「There's no mistake」

It seems she's convinced of something.

After that, I was placed inside a carriage while restricted just like that.

It's a luxurious carriage with a roof.

Seeing the soldiers attitude towards Marga, is she some influential person?

Marga, I, Misery and Emily are in the carriage.

When the soldiers picked me up and tried to stuff me inside the carriage by force, Misery was clinging to me while crying.

One of the soldiers was going to tear Misery off me.

But, Marga as if having thought of something asked Misery「Do you also want to

come?」in a gentle voice.

Hearing that, Misery immediately stopped crying and promptly nodded her head.

Then, a voice was heard from among the villagers.

「If the child is going, a person who will look after her is necessary, right?」

The one who raised the voice was Emily.

Marga appraised Emily from head to feet and approved by saying「Alright」.

Everyone worried about Misery and Emily tried also to call out, but all stopped after hearing「We won't do anything bad to them」.

Because of that, this is the lineup.

Several soldiers are travelling along the carriage on horsebacks.

A soldier, the captain, and the coachman are driving the carriage.

Misery was frightened a little by that sight, but the walls and roof of the carriage made a perfect private room.

However, the atmosphere in the carriage is the worst.

Well, that's to be expected.

Because a person of the village was forcefully taken away.

But, when I think about it now, it's not like they used more violence than was necessary.

Marga's attitude is the evidence of that.

「Please forgive me for our behaviour. However, the situation would worsen if we don't hurry up」

She suddenly lowers her head to break the bad atmosphere.

But, I feel that the strong-minded Emily's anger hasn't been subsidised.

She's harshly watching Marga who is bowing down.

「So? Why are we riding in a carriage?」

I don't feel a bit of forgiveness from her.

As if she didn't accept the apology.

But, I think that she's allowed this much.

Marga also looks like she was prepared to not be forgiven with just bowing her head.

「Then, I will talk about our destination」

After that, the carriage drove for three more days.

「This, where are we heading to?」

Not recognizing the surroundings, I docilely ask Marga.

「Lambert」

Even if you tell me that, I wouldn't know where it is.

Hearing that, Emily ponders for a while then tells me who knows nothing「A place where the king is」from.

「No, it's not the king. Lambert is the place of the Earl」

Emily bites her lips after Marga corrects her.

「That is the same thing for people like us」

Then, both fall into silence.

Marga dejected, Emily sullen.

However, there's nothing to do in the carriage.

Because Misery was bored, she left her seat and climbed up on my lap.

But, because my thighs were hard or because my ribs were hitting her.

She found me uncomfortable and climbed on Emily's lap.

Shobo~n.

Emily embraces Misery who climbed on her lap from behind.

「You are bored too, huh」

Emily pulls on Misery's cheeks, tickles Misery's sides and plays with her.

Then, Marga who was quietly watching matched her eyes with Misery's.

Marga has her face covered by a veil as always, but she beckoned her with a gentle voice.

「Won't you come and sit on my lap?」

Misery thought for a moment, then suddenly turned her head away.

「Ahaha, both you and Bones are hated」

Emily who said that laughed, then she remembered she's talking to Marga and turned her face away.

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